TL 2260

FRENTE REVOLUCIONARIA DE TIMOR-LESTE INDEPENDENTE

(REVOLUTIONARY FRONT FOR AN INDEPENDENT EAST TIMOR)

FRETILIN

MEMO

From: José Ramos-Horta (FRETILIN)
To: All support groups and concerned NGOs
Date: 17Dec85

Subject: Presidential elections in Portugal. DFSE meeting in Maputo. FRETILIN/UDT talks.

1. Presidential elections in Portugal are in full swing. There are four main contenders: Mário Soares (PS), the least likely to win and the worst on Timor; Mme Pintassilgo, a strong contender with excellent record on East Timor; Salgado Zenha, also a strong candidate who already stated that if he wins the elections he would support the inclusion of FRETILIN in the negotiations with the SG. Zenha was a leading PS member; and Freitas do Amaral, the rightist candidate, also a strong candidate and with excellent record on East Timor.

2. One thing is certain: no one, even Mário Soares, would sell out East Timor. The worst that could happen would be for him to adopt a passive role. However, the three main contenders have all excellent position on East Timor.

3. Apart from CDPM activities around the elections, I am endeavouring to meet with all Presidential candidates. Thursday AM, Dec 19, I am having a Press Conference with Portuguese journalists, and with foreign Correspondents in the late afternoon.

4. DFSE will hold a general meeting in Maputo in January to map out a strategy for 1986 with a view on the 1986 NAM Summit in Harare and the

41st GA session. -

5. As you should be aware, DFSE has pursued efforts to reconcile with UDT with a view to establishing a common voice in support of the rights of our people to self-determination. To this end, I held numerous discussions with UDT leaders in Australia in 1984 and 1985. Efforts to hold talks with UDT leaders in Portugal have failed so far. In view of the current presidential elections and the crucial role of Portugal in the coming year, we have spared no efforts in arriving at some measure of understanding and cooperation with UDT.

6. Yesterday, for the first time in 10 years, I met with a UDT delegation led by Moisés Amaral, an anti-FRETILIN hardliner. The talks were held at the Portuguese Parliament building, in the offices of CDS, the rightist party that backs UDT. The meeting ran very smoothly and we have agreed already on some basic points. We are meeting again tomorrow night, this time with the CDS leader Lucar Pires, an influential member of International Christian Democrats. I propose joint meetings with different presidential candidates with media coverage and a final joint Press Conference after the elections. I believe this to be a major achievement inasmuch as it will impress upon the political élites in Portugal that we, the East Timorese, are prepared to challenge anyone who might adopt a negative attitude towards the cause of self-determination for East Timor. On the positive side, it will encourage those in middle of the political spectrum to come forward. I am hopeful that these talks will produce some medium-term results that will be highly benefitial to our common struggle.

END

Jose's message:-
kindly treat with discretion
especially paras 5 & 6.
Any firm agreement will
be made public.

Carmel